

*The existence of man depends on six inches of topsoil & the water that falls on it.....Save them*

## STONE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

# Newsletter

SPRING 2010

### In Recognition of Earth's Day 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – April 22

America's Farmers.....Everyday Environmentalists

Farmers should consider themselves as environmentalists, for the steps they take to improve the environment aren't new; just like Earth Day, they have been around for many decades. In fact, as long as livestock has been raised on their land, the families have worked as good stewards to protect and enhance the environment.

Conservation of our natural resources has always been an important part of farm life. Sustainability means ensuring that the land will provide for the next generations by focusing on the well-being of their animals and maintaining the natural resources on their land. Farmers employ a variety of environmentally friendly practices, realizing these practices are responsible for land preservation that is essential to maintain, if you take care of the land – it will take care of you.

Farmers have been "going green" long before this was even a cool thought. Here are some ways in which the farmer has helped the environment. They....

- Maintain proper nutrients in soil by regularly analyzing samples to determine need.
- Use biological control on invasive pests along with managed chemical applications.
- Plant trees for windbreaks or riparian buffers.
- Decommission old abandoned wells or cisterns for primary purpose of water quality.
- Implement conservation tillage to conserve soil and moisture.
- Fence off streams to create a buffer to help prevent bank erosion and control runoff.
- Plant grasses on highly erodible land, conserving soil.
- Maintain better quality forages by proper rotation of livestock
- Better utilization of manure for nutrients by livestock rotation.
- Plan nutrient management systems, minimizing runoff, providing only what plants need.
- Plan for warm season grasses; providing quality forage during summer for livestock.
- Recycle materials such as feed bags, plastics, batteries, motor oil, tires, scrap metal, etc.
- Provide habitat for wildlife – field feathering, tree/shrub plantings, promoting pollinators

Participate in university research projects that aim to improve agricultural environmental practices. Partner with state, local and federal agencies for best management practices.

Our hats go off to all of you who have and are continuing on in the name of conservation. For each day, you are a steward of the land in some way or another. Stewardship is valuable – for it is a way of life that we hope our kids today will carry forward tomorrow.

Melissa White

### ***NEEDS ASSESSMENT—LOCALLY LED***

In a world of varied government programs, everyone can agree on one thing; no single program, piece of legislation, or single issue can fully address the needs of local communities across the country. This is especially true of natural resource conservation.

Because of the vast array of natural resource conditions and uses throughout the US, it is common sense that community members are best suited to identify and resolve the concerns in their respective areas, not just those identified by federal programs, legislation or national priorities. Locally Led is used to describe a way of addressing natural resource needs—one that begins, is carried out and ends at the local level. The districts hope to continue on in this manner; this core concept defines how we have traditionally led and applied conservation practices.

Conservation districts' success in the past has been largely due to the emphasis on their ability to identify needs, set priorities and carry out programs based on local conditions and needs. As conservation programs, funding and focuses continue to shift, it is more important than ever for districts to step up to the plate and fulfill their responsibilities as local representatives for local, resource driven conservation. This too is where we reach out to our communities to aide in identifying resource concerns so that practices and funding can be assessed to address these land and water resource concerns. Districts are the gateway between the community and outside technical, funding and educational resources, using a mix of federal, state, and local programs as tools to solve local concerns.

The natural resource needs of the community are at the core of the locally led process. It involves the community in the assessment of those needs, as well as the solutions and priorities. Locally led is not a program, but again, a way of doing business, a way to effectively meet communities' needs and get the right kind of conservation on the ground where it is most needed.

At this district, we strive to assess the needs within the county to better request assistance for those conservation practices. As landowners in the county, we encourage your input for conservation needs. Stewardship calls for each person to help conserve our precious resources that provide us with our daily sustenance; our security depends upon healthy soil and clean water.

Let us continue on in the name of conservation. Let us know how we can help you.....Melissa White

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# Board News



Larry Israel

The Stone Co SWCD announces changes in board members. The District held their election in March in conjunction with an open house. Larry Israel from Crane Mo was elected to the board as a first time board member for Area 2. Jerry Youngblood of Blue Eye was re-elected to the board for another 2 year term for Area 4. Bob Scott of Galena was appointed after resignation from our past board chair, Bruce Salisbury. Bob currently serves as our Board Chair, Jerry as the Vice Chair, Myra McDonald as Treasurer, Tim Schnakenberg as Secretary. Outgoing this year was Steve Wright who served as Vice Chair, from Area 2. A big thank you to each of those who have & are currently serving. Robin White joined the district in Jan and is doing an outstanding job in her position.



Tim, Myra, Steve, Bob, Jerry, Melissa, and Kevin



Robin White—Info/Ed Coordinator



Bob Scott



The 16th Annual Women in Ag Conference is to be held on Sept 13, 14 & 15 at the Radisson Hotel in Branson, MO. The three day conference starts off on Monday with your choice of three workshops that include:

- **At Your Services**--USDA representative gives a brief overview of state and federal programs available.
- **Trust Me?**--basics of trusts and criteria to consider before establishment with Dean Young of Heim & Young financial.
- **Trouble with a Capital 'T'**- review of threats to agriculture community and how you can become a harder target.
- **F.A.S.T Recordkeeping**- farm management skills for today's farm women.
- **Spice It Up**- growing, preserving, and using organic herbs.
- **Discover Nature Women:** Intro to Archery-basics of archery designed for women.
- **"A Branson Memento"**- Christa Pickle with Scrapbooks Forever will help you create a chipboard mini-album with Branson Theme (extra costs applies)

Tuesday will consist of a walking tour of College of the Ozarks which gives students option of a degree in an agriculture related field without paying tuition. Wednesday will consist of information on women's health issues beginning with Barbara Zimmerman of St Johns Medical Center as guest speaker, a chance to hear about one women's victory over breast cancer and how to unlock the door to a greater and healthier life from Healthways Silver Sneaker fitness program.

For more information on the conference check out the upcoming events page on Stone County Soil & Water Conservation website at [www.swcd.mo.gov](http://www.swcd.mo.gov) or call 417 723-8389.

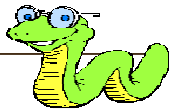
# SCHOOL NEWS



With Spring comes the 4th grade soil demonstrations at the local schools. The program is designed to teach children about soil conservation and how important it is to take care of the soil. The children view a film from the Missouri Department of Conservation, and are given opportunity to discuss the film. Following a presentation that discusses how soil effects our everyday lives, they make their own soil profile that they can take home. The children enjoy the interactive presentation and take with them a better understanding of what soil is and why it is important. The teachers and school have been receptive to the program and thank you goes out to those that have participated. Robin White



Kids at local schools get excited about soil conservation!



## *Did You Know?*

- It takes 500 years to form 1 inch of soil.
- It takes 500 years to break down plastic and aluminum cans.
- Of all water on earth-97.5% is salt water, and the remaining 2.5% fresh water. Less than 1% is readily accessible



## Upcoming Events

### 2010 Grazing Schools

Must attend a school to be eligible for state cost share on grazing systems.

**Mt. Vernon, MO—May 25, 26 & 27 (daytime)** MU Southwest Center; limited to 45 attendees; contact 417 466-2148; estimated cost \$100 per person. Cost includes materials, 3 hot lunch meals, refreshments for morning and afternoon breaks, and transportation for farm visits.

**Neosho, MO—June 15, 16 & 17 (daytime)** Crowder College, limited to 30 attendees; contact McDonald/Newton Co SWCD, 417 451-1366 ext 3

**Ozark, MO—September 14, 15, & 16 (daytime)** Limited to 30 attendees; contact Christian Co. SWCD, 417 581-2719 ext 3

**Bois d'Arc—October 19, 20 & 21 (daytime)**, MDC Dalton Shooting Range, limited to 40 attendees; contact Greene Co SWCD, 417 831-5246 ext 3

**16th Annual Women in Ag—Sept 13, 14, & 15** Radisson Hotel, Branson MO  
contact 417 723-8389.

**If interested in specific field demonstrations or workshops please call us at 417 723-8389**



# STONE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

108—B CORTNEY LANE  
CRANE, MISSOURI 65633  
PHONE: 417-723-8389

[www.swcd.mo.gov/stone](http://www.swcd.mo.gov/stone)

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## PROGRESS IN CONSERVATION

Since the beginning of our fiscal year in July of 2009 we have seen a variety of interest in conservation practices including seedling poor pastureland, excluding livestock from streams, following written weed management plans, nutrient management plans, installation of intensive grazing systems and filling abandoned water wells. Local landowners have looked to the Soil & Water Conservation District office in Crane for information-education and cost-share assistance in order to complete such practices. Progress includes the following statistics:

Pasture Planting (Lime, fertilizer, seed components) .....	173 acres
Livestock Exclusion from streams (fence) .....	8.5 acres
Managed control of Weeds .....	2980 acres
Livestock Exclusion from Woodland .....	23 acres
Installation of Intensive Grazing systems (water well, pipeline, water tank & fence components) .....	344 acres
Nutrient Program .....	170 acres
Decommissioned Water Wells .....	5 each

Revisions are being made to some of the District programs with respect to cost-share allocations due to state wide budget concerns. The decrease in state tax revenues will affect our availability of district cost-share funds. Landowners interested in future conservation planning and possible application of practices should not hesitate to contact our office for information or a farm visit to assist you in your conservation efforts.

The Special Area Land Treatment or SALT grant program is ahead of schedule in completing target conservation goals. This special grant will be ending in the spring of 2011. By June 2010 we should have completed at least 60% of our total 4 year goals and we have completed 70% to date! We appreciate the interest and hard work of the local landowners within the Crane Creek Watershed that applied district practices to their land. We continue to leave a lasting footprint on our land conserving soil and improving water quality. Again thank you for your participation.

Kevin Wray